

PRESTATYN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
Mr. J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H., Cert. Meat and Other Foods

FOR THE YEAR

1965

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PRESTATYN**



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1965

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1965

Chairman : Coun. A. T. PRICE

Coun. J. ELLIS EVANS, J.P.	Coun. A. T. PRICE
„ N. STEWART	„ E. J. NEWBY
„ T. W. VAUGHAN	„ J. M. HUGHES
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Chairman of the Council : Coun. G. H. BARKER, J.P.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. D. P. W. ROBERTS

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: Meat and Food Inspector:

J. M. EDWARDS, M.R.S.H., Cert. Meat & Food Inspector

Clerk:

Mrs. B. PARRY

General Assistant:

D. H. KEEGAN

Meteorological Officer:

E. J. MILES, M.I.Mun.E.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1965

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of Prestatyn for the year 1965.

The population of the district once again rose by 380 to 12,450 but in my opinion this figure, given by the Registrar General, is probably an under-estimate bearing in mind the large number of new properties constructed during the year.

There were 191 births which gave a local crude birth rate of 15.3 per thousand population and when adjusted for the higher proportion of old people in the local population compared with the national average, the adjusted birth rate was 22.1 which compares well with the national average of 18. There were 21 illegitimate births during the year which gave an illegitimacy rate of 11% which is a considerable rise on last year and much higher than the national average. This rate tends to fluctuate greatly from year to year for no apparent reason but always tends to be higher in seaside resorts than in inland areas. There was one still-birth giving a local still-birth rate of 5.2 which compares well with the national average of 16.3 per thousand live and still births. There were five deaths of infants under one year of age giving a local infant mortality rate of 26 per thousand live births which is slightly above the national average of 19 per thousand live births. Three of these deaths occurred during the first week of life. It is pleasing to record that there was, once again, no death of mothers in pregnancy and child birth. There was 232 deaths of which 96 were male and 136 female. The crude death rate was 18.6 and when adjusted the standardised death rate was 10.2 which compares with the national average of 11.5 per thousand population.

Private and municipal housing development continued during the year and 273 new dwellings were constructed including 16 flats at Maes-y-Groes for aged persons. The situation of the Municipal flats is ideal from the point of view of shopping and they have been designed to comply with the latest housing standards including the Parker-Morris recommendations. In my opinion, it is essential that all new dwellings that are provided for aged persons are easy to keep clean, are warm, well ventilated, have fittings that can be easily reached and baths and wash basins that can be used by handicapped persons. One has to accept the fact that the open fire will become much less important in the future as a source of heating for domestic premises and that greater reliance will be placed upon gas. Electricity and oil as alternative sources of fuel. This, of course, has certainly come to the fore as a result of the gas discoveries in the North Sea. I would urge all householders in Prestatyn to burn smokeless fuels or switch over to the newer forms of space heating so as to maintain the purity of Prestatyn's air.

There were 12 cases of scarlet fever, 9 cases of whooping cough, 52 cases of measles and 5 cases of dysentery notified in 1965. Once again, there were no cases of poliomyelitis or enteric fever notified in the district. In my opinion it is very doubtful whether there is much value in making certain diseases notifiable, for example scarlet fever, erysipelas.

There were 4 cases of tuberculosis notified and close co-operation is maintained between the Local and County Health Departments in limiting the spread of infection when cases of tuberculosis are discovered. Lectures were given during the year to the staffs at local Holiday Camps to ensure the highest possible standards of food hygiene.

The Consulting Engineers appointed by the Council to review the sewerage system in the town produced a report outlining the need for a new sewerage disposal system including a new sea outfall and major renewal of sewers in Lower Prestatyn and Meliden and when the scheme is implemented will ultimately dispense with the need of the Meliden Sewerage Works. I am very concerned about the surcharging of sewers which occurs in wet weather in various parts of Prestatyn and am very anxious to see this scheme brought into operation as soon as possible, if not in its entirety immediately, at least in stages with the relief of flooding as the prime consideration, initially.

I am not too happy about the disposal of sewage out to sea unless it can be shown quite definitely that sewage discharged from the end of a sea outfall will not return to any part of the beach. It is quite possible that major technical developments may take place in the next few years which could obviate the need for traditional sewerage works occupying large areas of land and I would like to see all seaside authorities provide more efficient methods for dealing with sewage effluent than is the case at present.

Prestatyn section of the Warren has now been laid out as a caravan site complying with the modern standards and is a great improvement on the previous position — a collection of hideous wooden shacks. I am pleased to see that practically all the holiday camp sites comply with the Caravan Act 1960 standards.

Due to the rapid growth of the town it has been impossible to carry out the necessary work on the Shops and Railway Premises Act, as Mr. Edwards, the Public Health Inspector is fully engaged on other duties and it is hoped that when the additional Inspector is appointed, this backlog of work will be dealt with.

I should like to pay tribute to the outstanding efforts of the voluntary organisations of the district, particularly to the Women's Voluntary Service who are providing an excellent 'Meals on Wheels' service.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and active interest in the Department, the Council Officials and in particular Mr. Edwards.

I am, Your Obedient Servant,

D. P. W. ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Land area (exclusive of foreshore)	1,640 acres
Land area (inclusive of foreshore)	3,219 acres
Population at mid-year 1965 (Registrar General's estimate) ...	12,450
Population change compared with previous year (increase) ...	380
Total number of properties (end of 1965)	5,906
Rateable value of the Urban District at end of 1965	£529,280
Product of a penny rate	£2,065
General rate in £1	11/7d

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The town has become renowned as a locality for retirement, with a favourable climate and almost fog-free atmosphere.

The district has recently become popular with holidaymakers, both day trippers and residential, and miles of excellent sand and a safe-bathing beach contribute to the amenities of the town. The population of the Urban District is growing rapidly and within a decade, granted the present rate of expansion, it is possible for the population to exceed 18,000. There are no industries in the town, apart from catering for holidaymakers, but fortunately employment is available for manual and clerical workers in Deeside industrial plants which are within daily travelling distance.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

Live Births—Male 81, Female 110	191
Legitimate live births—Male 70, Female 100	170
Illegitimate live births—Male 11, Female 10	21
Illegitimate local rate per 1,000 live births	110
National illegitimate rate per 1,000 live births	77
Crude birth rate per 1,000 live births	15.3
Birth rate comparability factor	1.45
Birth rate standardised	22.1
National birth rate per 1,000 population	18

Still Births :

Still births (total)	1
Legitimate still births (total)	1
Illegitimate still births (total)	—
Local still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	5.2
National still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	16.3

Infant Mortality Rates :

Infant deaths under one year of age (total)	5
Legitimate infant deaths under one year of age (total)	4
Illegitimate infant death under one year of age (total)	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	26
National infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate life births	47

Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal)	3
Legitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	3
Illegitimate infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15
Nation neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	13
Total peri-natal deaths (still births and deaths under one week combined)	4
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	21
National peri-natal mortality rate	26.9
Deaths in first week of life (early neo-natal period)	3
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15

Maternal mortality, including abortion :

Number of deaths	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—

DEATHS

Deaths—Male 96, Female 136	232
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	18.6
Comparability factor	0.55
Death rate standardised per 1,000 population	10.2
National death rate for England and Wales	11.5

POPULATION CHANGES IN THE URBAN DISTRICT

The following table shows the change in population due to migration :-

Year	Mid-year population : Registrar General's estimated figure	Population change during year	Change in population due to births and deaths only during year	Change in population due to migration
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1901	1,261	—	—	—
1911	2,036	—	—	—
1921	4,085	—	—	—
1931	4,511	—	—	—
1941	10,030	—	—	—
1951	8,809	—	—	—
1952	8,553	—256	—76	—180
1953	8,670	+117	—19	+136
1954	9,210	+540	—36	+576
1955	9,050	—160	—49	—111
1956	9,210	+160	—43	+203
1957	9,380	+170	—31	+201
1958	9,550	+170	—24	+194
1959	9,720	+170	—64	+234
1960	10,020	+300	—49	+349
1961	10,670	+650	—4	+654
1962	11,170	+500	—60	+560
1963	11,490	+320	—50	+370
1964	12,070	+580	+9	+573
1965	12,450	+380	—41	+421

A minus sign in Column 4 indicates an excess of deaths over births.

WARD POPULATIONS

Acreage, Population, Private Households and Dwellings. Population

Local Authority Areas, Wards, Civil Parishes in Rural District, Conurbation Centres, New Towns.

Area	Acreage	1951		Population		Population		Persons per acre	Private households		Population in private households	Structurally separate dwellings occupied.	Rooms	Occupation		Density of dwellings 1961
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)		(h)	(i)				(j)	(k)		(l)	(m)
Flintshire ...	163,707	145,279	150,082	72,266	77,816	0.9	47,341	145,842	46,864	227,766	0.65	5.0				
P'statyn U.D.	2,796	8,823	10,786	4,661	6,125	3.9	4,047	10,570	4,018	19,840	0.55	2.5				
Wards :																
Meliden ...	424	1,351	1,775	766	1,009	4.2	690	1,775	686	3,138	0.59	3.7				
North East	452	1,298	1,209	532	677	2.7	425	1,198	423	2,091	0.59	4.8				
North West	478	1,717	2,669	1,180	1,489	5.6	1,006	2,529	1,000	4,711	0.56	1.5				
South East	836	1,556	1,744	694	1,050	2.1	690	1,710	681	3,873	0.46	0.4				
South West	606	2,901	3,389	1,489	1,900	5.6	1,236	3,358	1,228	6,027	0.58	2.9				

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DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES

The table below indicates the common causes of death in Great Britain in order of importance, as extracted from national returns:-

44%	...	Heart disease.
17%	...	Vascular lesions of C.N.S.
13%	...	Cancer, excluding cancer of lung.
8½%	...	All other causes.
5½%	...	Bronchitis.
5%	...	Other circulatory diseases.
2½%	...	Cancer of lung.
2½%	...	Pneumonia.
2%	...	Other respiratory diseases.

Cancer death	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Lung	—	2	9	6	5	8	3	10	4	7	4
Stomach	5	1	6	3	4	4	2	3	6	2	9
Breast	5	1	6	2	4	1	3	3	4	2	4
Uterus	1	1	2	2	1	1	4	1	2	1	1
Leukaemia	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	—	—
Other Sites	18	13	16	15	24	15	13	17	20	17	22
Total all sites	29	18	39	30	39	29	26	36	38	29	40

Coronary Heart Disease: During the past twenty years there has been a considerable rise in the incidence of this disease, and although improved methods of certification of death may have accounted for some of the rise, it is generally considered that there has been a real rise in the incidence of this disease.

The following chart shows the annual deaths from this disease in the urban district over the past 10 years :-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Deaths	27	28	29	36	37	55	52	51	48	52	60

CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASE

As the proportion of people over 65 increases in the community so the incidence of cerebral vascular disorders ("strokes") increases. The rehabilitation of affected patients is often a long process and places great strain on the relatives and medical and nursing attendants.

It is increasingly recognised that early physiotherapy treatment is often the key to success. Skilled treatment can often prevent deformities, re-educate patterns of movement, and re-train skills.

Maintenance of range of movement during the early stages must be carried out passively, or stiffness will make functional activities more difficult, and the patient can do some of these movements himself, but the responsibility for this rests with the physiotherapist to show the patient how they may most easily be done.

Because of the acute shortage of physiotherapists, those patients treated at home, are often cared for by the district nurse who, through pressure of work, often finds she is unable to give the necessary time during the vital first few days after a stroke.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 5 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and details are as follows: -

Age at death

4 months	...	...	...	Inhalation of regurgitated stomach contents (natural causes)
9 hours	...	...	...	Premature Infant (26 weeks)
6 hours	...	...	...	Subdural haemorrhage, Breach delivery.
11 months	...	...	...	Broncho pneumonia, Encaphalitis
9 hours	...	...	...	Prematurity (24 weeks) Premature rupture of membranes.

CAUSES OF DEATH : REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	5	9
11. „ „ Lung, Bronchus	2	2	4
12. „ „ Breast	—	4	4
13. „ „ Uterus	—	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	11	22
15. Leukaemia, Alcaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	17	31	48
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	23	37	60
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	—	5
20. Other Heart Diseases	5	16	21
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	5	5	10
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	6	7
24. Bronchitis	7	—	7
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	3	—	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ildefined Diseases	3	12	15
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
34. All Other Accidents	4	5	9
35. Suicide	2	—	2
36. Homicide and War Operations	—	—	—
All Causes	96	136	232

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS

	Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population.	Number of local births: R.G.'s returns.	Local crude birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local adjusted rate.	National birth rate per 1,000 population.	Local deaths: R.G.'s returns.	Crude death rate per 1,000 population	Adjusted local rate per 1,000 population.	National death rate per 1,000 population	Infant deaths under 1 year of age.	Local infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	National infant mortality rate.
1911	2,036	25	12.5	—	23.8	30	14.2	—	13.9	2	25.0	—
1921	4,085	30	10.1	—	—	32	10.8	—	—	1	33.0	—
1931	4,511	60	14.0	—	15.8	46	10.76	—	12.3	4	66.0	—
1941	10,030	132	13.2	—	14.2	135	13.5	—	12.9	7	53.4	66.0
1951	8,809	91	10.4	—	15.5	173	19.8	12.9	12.5	4	44.0	29.6
1952	8,553	94	10.9	—	15.3	170	19.9	12.9	11.3	3	31.9	27.6
1953	8,670	108	12.4	14.5	15.5	127	14.6	9.5	11.4	1	9.3	26.8
1954	9,210	98	11.0	13.6	15.2	134	15.1	9.5	11.3	—	—	25.5
1955	9,050	99	10.9	13.5	15.0	148	16.4	10.3	11.7	4	40.2	24.9
1956	9,210	104	11.3	14.0	15.7	147	15.9	10.9	11.7	2	19.2	23.8
1957	9,380	124	13.0	16.2	16.1	155	16.5	11.2	11.5	2	16.1	23.0
1958	9,550	143	15.0	18.4	16.4	167	17.5	11.6	11.7	1	7.0	22.5
1959	9,720	127	12.03	13.35	16.5	181	18.6	14.1	11.6	6	51.28	22.0
1960	10,020	134	13.4	14.84	17.1	183	18.3	13.9	11.5	1	6.0	21.7
1961	10,750	172	16.4	17.06	17.4	176	16.3	13.4	12.0	4	23.3	21.4
1962	11,170	144	12.9	13.3	18.0	204	18.3	15.3	11.9	3	20.8	21.6
1963	11,490	155	13.4	17.4	18.2	205	17.8	11.3	12.2	2	12.9	20.9
1964	12,070	201	16.4	23.8	18.4	192	15.8	9	11.3	6	30	20
1965	12,450	191	15.3	22.1	18.0	232	18.6	10.2	11.5	5	26	19

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table shown below indicates the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases that occurred during 1965

Disease	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64	Over 65	Cases admitted to hospital
Scarlet Fever	12	1		2	9					
Diphtheria	—	—								
Erysipelas	1	—							1	
Whooping Cough	6	1		2	3	2	1			
Measles	52	3	8	25	15					
Pneumonia	2							1		
Meningococcal Infection	—	—								
Food Poisoning	—	—								
Dysentery	5	—					5			
Polio										
Poliomyelitis	—	—								
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—								1
Paratyphoid	—	—								
Polio Encephalitis	—	—								
Encephalitis	—	—								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—								
Enteric Fever	—	—								
Pemphigus	—	—								
Total	52	5	8	29	27	2	7	1	2	1

There were 52 cases of measles, 9 cases of whooping cough and 12 cases of scarlet fever reported to the Department during the year. The large number of cases of measles were an average annual figure and there were few complications arising from the disease. A vaccine is now available to protect infants against measles. It is intended, at present, to use the vaccine in carefully selected cases.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year but 5 cases of dysentery were notified. All cases were isolated and cleared up on treatment. I am pleased to say that we did not have a recurrence in 1965 of the large number of food poisoning cases that occurred in 1963 in a local holiday camp and this improvement was probably due to the altered arrangements regarding the preparation of food in that food was cooked and served within a few hours.

Constant improvements are being made in kitchen equipment, but it is paramount to impress upon all those who work in food premises that they must practice the highest possible standards of hygiene to ensure that food is subject to the least possible contamination.

It is quite impossible for the staff of the Health Department to constantly inspect food premises and supervise all those working in shops and cafes and it is largely up to the general public to boycott all those food premises whose general level of hygiene is not up to the present day standards.

TABLE SHOWING TREND OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN THE URBAN
DISTRICT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Scarlet Fever	3	3	2	6	19	3	5	2	6	5	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	1	34	1	—	2	1	2	—	2	1
Whooping Cough	3	18	53	19	8	3	1	—	9	12	9
Measles	197	8	53	197	20	137	106	111	41	88	52
Pneumonia	1	2	5	1	3	—	—	1	1	4	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	3	3	5	1	1	6	—	*500	8	—
Dysentery	—	5	—	2	—	11	—	2	2	—	5
Polio-myelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	5	9	12	1	6	1	6	—	6	4	3
Tuberculosis Non-respiratory	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1

* Suspected

TUBERCULOSIS 1965

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
26—35 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

As will have been seen in the previous table, there were four new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1965. Close co-operation is maintained between the district, county and hospital authorities, as all have responsibilities in the treatment and after care of tuberculosis sufferers. Details of the new cases are given in the table.

There were no re-admissions to hospital for treatment of tuberculosis of patients identified as suffering from T.B. in previous years.

Most county district health authorities maintain a tuberculosis register of all persons who are suffering or recently have suffered from the disease, and the local list was revised in conjunction with the Chest Clinic at Royal Alexandra Hospital and the County Council records and the position at the end of 1965 was as follows: -

Pulmonary Cases ...	Males: 30	Females: 22
Non-Pulmonary Cases ...	Males: 2	Females: 1

Bovine tuberculosis has been eliminated due to the introduction of tuberculin testing of cattle and the slaughter of positive reactors.

CHEST X-RAY FACILITIES

The Welsh Regional Hospital Board has a mobile X-ray unit based at Wrexham, which visits all parts of North Wales, and regularly every third Tuesday is located at Rhyl Town Hall all day. The unit is available to all members of the public except young children, and details are given below of the 1965 results:—

TABLE I

Details of examinations carried out by Unit "G" during the period
1st January 1965 to 1st December 1965

Circuit location	Number Examined	Number of visits	Average attendance per visit
Flintshire :			
Holywell	780	14	55
Mold	942	15	63
Rhyl	2,304	18	128
Shotton	714	15	48
Special Survey	1,570	—	—

TABLE II

Analysis showing Type of Examinee

Type of Examinee	Location Flintshire
General Population Volunteers	3,983
General Practitioners Referrals	271
Scholars	283
Students	26
Contacts	313
Mental Hospital staff	14
Factory Groups—Industrial	1,086
—Non Industrial	131
Special Groups	24
Mental Patients	60
	<hr/> 6,191 <hr/>

TABLE III

Details of total number of cases referred to Chest Clinic or diagnosed
as abnormal by the Mass Radiography Unit

	Referred for further investigation to Chest Clinics	Other Pulmonary Abnormalities diagnosed on Unit	Total
Flintshire			
Holywell	6	6	12
Mold	8	15	23
Rhyl	131	117	248
Shotton	5	11	16
Special Surveys	12	25	37

TABLE IV

Analysis of total number of cases found to be abnormal.

Abnormality	Flintshire
Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
"New" Cases	1
"Old" Cases	12
Healed Primary Tuberculosis	55
Healed Post Primary Tuberculosis	49
Abnormality of the Boney Thorax and soft tissues	9
Malignant Neoplasm	2
Non-Malignant Neoplasm	5
Congenital Cardiac Abnormalities	49
Acquired Cardiac Abnormalities	5
Pneumoconiosis—without P.M.F.	—
—with P.M.F.	—
Pulmonary Fibrosis—non tuberculous	17
(to include Asthma and Bronchitis)	16
Emphysema	5
Bronchiectasis	7
Bacterial or virus infection	31
Pleural thickening or calcification	6
Abnormalities of the Diaphragm and Oesophagus	—
Malformation of the Lungs	—
Spontaneous pneumothorax	3
Miscellaneous	—
Further observations required	8
Failed to attend Chest Clinic	—
	284
Negative after investigation at Chest Clinic	52
	336
	<hr/>
Total number of people X-rayed	6191

I am indebted to Dr. Jarman for these statistics.

CHEST CLINIC

The treatment of cases of tuberculosis is the responsibility of the Consultant Chest Physician, Dr. Morrison, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

The following services are the responsibility of the Flintshire County Council, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer, Dr. G. W. Roberts, for allowing me to give full details of the following services available locally :-

SECTION 22 CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

There is one Clinic in Prestatyn which is situated in Kings Avenue, and Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Friday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. A Medical Officer attends every first and third Friday.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS

Ante Natal Clinics are held at Kings Avenue on alternative Fridays and are staffed by the Consultant Obstetrician. Talks are given by health visitors to the mothers on child birth and baby management.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning facilities are available at Flint and Rhyl for the Prestatyn area.

WELFARE FOODS

Distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Vitamin Tablets and Orange Juice) is carried out by the Women's Voluntary Service, Local Branch, on behalf of the County Council, and the distribution centre is at The Scala Buildings on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. At the W.V.S. Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

This is arranged at the County Council Clinics in the area and is carried out by the Dental Officers employed by the County Council. Treatment is arranged free during the ante-natal and post-natal periods up to one year after the birth of the child. It is regrettable that more mothers do not take advantage of these facilities.

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY SERVICES

There are three midwives who are also trained district nurses employed in the area, who carry out ante-natal and post-natal care for mothers during this time and after discharge from hospital after childbirth.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITORS

There are two health visitors employed locally and they are responsible for giving advice to families of all ages with special reference to the young and the very old. Their duties have increased of late due to the ever expanding demands of the old people of Prestatyn, and their work is complementary to that of the General Practitioner, who is often so hard pressed throughout his daily routine and is quite unable to give the necessary advice on health matters that should be given by him to his patients. There is a growing tendency to assign health visitors to groups of practitioners so as to assist them in their daily duties, especially on health education and the prevention of illness, and this is being considered for certain parts of the County.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the duties of the midwife are shared with those of the district nurse in the area, and the district nursing aspect of the work is increasing in relation to the midwifery side which is diminishing because of the increasing proportion of Hospital confinements in the area. As mention will be made in a later part of the Report of the increasing number of people in Prestatyn, there will be further heavy demands which will probably necessitate increasing the staff. Home helps are engaged in the town mainly on a part-time basis, and this service is a most valuable and important recent development of local authority services.

MEASLES

A vaccine is now available for protection of children against measles but no mass vaccination campaign is planned at present.

SECTION 27—AMBULANCES

The ambulance service is radio-controlled and administered from the headquarters at Mold. A local station is situated at Rhyl.

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER CARE LOAN OF EQUIPMENT

The County Council loan equipment to handicapped persons to assist rehabilitation. Arrangements are in force whereby persons may also hire medical equipment from the local British Red Cross Organisation at a very small fee, and enquiries are directed to Red Cross Headquarters at Victoria Avenue between 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. This is a most valuable service provided by this wonderful voluntary organisation and they are to be highly commended on their efforts.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment, which is free and confidential, is available at the following clinics :-

H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph.

Male and Females—5.30 to 7 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Chester Royal Infirmary.

Males—Wednesday, 5—7 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females—Monday, 5—7 p.m.. Thursday, 5—7 p.m.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Medical examinations of school children were carried out by me as Assistant County Medical Officer in the district during the year, and I am pleased to say that the standard of health of the school children locally is very high indeed. There is a constant influx of new children and overcrowding is a serious problem in one school.

PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G. VACCINATION)

All thirteen-year-old pupils are offered protection against Tuberculosis, which has proved to be most valuable in reducing the incidence of the disease.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBNORMALITY

This is an expanding field of medical care, and the after-care of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals is the responsibility of the County Council Mental Welfare Officers.

Children who are of school age, who are mentally retarded and not suitable for education in ordinary schools are admitted to the Training Centre at Rhuddlan for sub-normal children.

NURSING HOMES

The following Nursing Home in the town is registered under the Public Health Act, 1936, with the County Council, and inspected periodically: Hawarden House, Victoria Road, Prestatyn.

WELFARE SERVICES

Homes are provided by the County Council for the admission of aged and handicapped persons who are unable to look after themselves adequately in their own homes. Two such homes are situated in Prestatyn, i.e., Park House and Carr Holm.

SECTION 47—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section conveys powers to District Councils to remove persons who are “aged, infirm, or suffering from grave chronic diseases and are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to look after themselves and are not receiving adequate care and attention from others.”

During the year frequent instances of people requiring care and assistance were brought to the notice of the health department and the majority of cases were admitted to homes or hospital and it is pleasing to record that legal action was not necessary in any case.

UNEMPLOYMENT

(1) Unemployment

Number of Persons Registered as Unemployed (excluding Registered Disabled Persons requiring employment under sheltered conditions) for the year 1965

Date	Men	Women	Total
11th January	489	133	622 (730)
8th February	474	129	603 (635)
8th March	473	139	612 (561)
12th April	385	91	476 (518)
10th May	364	57	421 (411)
14th June	238	4	242 (225)
12th July	233	1	234 (215)
9th August	249	8	257 (264)
13th September	323	46	369 (327)
11th October	449	91	540 (537)
8th November	471	105	576 (595)
6th December	503	114	617 (628)

The compared figures for 1964 are given in brackets after each monthly total.

The upward trend in unemployment since 1961 was halted in 1964 and the figures for 1965 have been fairly similar to 1964.

This was due in the main to the fact that practically all factories in the area were expanding; the fact that the construction industry was highly active; and these factors had a good effect on the Distributive Trades.

(2) Disabled Persons — Section I

Number of Unemployed Registered Disabled Persons (excluding those suitable for employment under sheltered conditions only).

Date	Men	Women	Total
11th January	57	8	65 (67)
8th February	56	7	63 (77)
8th March	59	9	68 (70)
12th April	54	4	58 (69)
10th May	53	4	57 (56)
14th June	35	1	36 (35)
12th July	25	1	26 (36)
9th August	23	1	24 (38)
13th September	33	3	36 (42)
11th October	48	6	54 (57)
8th November	52	6	58 (66)
6th December	57	6	63 (74)

Compared figures for 1964 are given in brackets after the total, and in general the numbers in 1965 are less than in 1964.

Section II Cases

The number of unemployed registered disabled persons who are suitable for employment only under sheltered conditions varied during the year from six to nine.

Other figures about Disabled Persons

The number of names on the local register of Disabled Persons are as follows :

Date	Men	Women	Total
16th April, 1962	409	72	481
15th April, 1963	422	59	481
13th April, 1964	438	72	510
12th April, 1965	473	79	552

A breakdown of the foregoing figures shows the causes of disablement :

	April 1964		April 1965	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1914-18 Pensioners	43	—	41	—
Other H.M. Forces Cases	121	—	118	—
Disabled from birth or early childhood	52	27	72	27
Industrial accident or disease	68	8	71	8

The main type of disabilities are injuries and diseases of the lower limbs, followed by injuries and diseases to the upper limbs, spinal troubles, heart complaints and chest complaints.

Many disabled persons have moved into this area for health reasons and it is probably true to say that a resort is likely to have a higher proportion of these people than other areas.

A high proportion of the disabled persons are in the higher age groups.

Many disabled persons who move into the area have skills for which there is no local demand but despite this factor it can be seen that a high proportion of disabled persons are in regular employment. It must be borne in mind too that some persons who would be appropriate to the disabled register do not in fact register and are in normal employment. This position is due to adaptability and the increasing willingness of employers to recognise that, given the right conditions, a disabled person is as good as the able-bodied worker. It is also the result of Industrial Rehabilitation and re-training at Government Training Centres.

(3) Employment

The area is traditionally a seaside holiday resort with high demands for labour in the hotel, catering, amusements and distributive trades in the summer season each year and a lack of employment prospects in the winter months.

Since 1957, however, there have been about nine factories introduced into the area, offering all the year round work and there has been a gradual shift from seasonal to permanent employment.

The vacancies outstanding in the office area on 13th April, 1966, were:—

Industries	Men	Women
Agriculture and Horticulture	1	—
Construction	5	—
Transport and Communications	1	—
Distributive Trades	6	1
Professional and Scientific services	3	17
Miscellaneous Services	93	211
(e.g., Amusements, Catering Laundries, Private Domestic)		

A high proportion of the vacancies were for the seasonal holiday trade.

The numbers placed in employment for 1964 were recorded (1679) and the figure was maintained for 1965; 954 men and 706 women (total 1,660) being placed in employment.

(4) General

Practically all the factories expanded their labour forces during 1965 and this has been reflected in an increased labour force in the distributive trades.

The steady increase in the insured population over the past few years levelled out in 1964 but I feel that the trend for the next few years will be a slight but steady increase. I think it fair to say that a good proportion of the workpeople who move into the area are in the higher age groups, having moved on medical advice, and have special skills or experience which are difficult to fit into the industrial pattern of the area.

The position in 1965 has therefore, continued on the same optimistic note set in 1964, with prospects of employment being good for the adaptable worker.

METEOROLOGY

Full details of climatic conditions during the year in Prestatyn are given at the end of Mr. Edwards' Report, but Prestatyn is fortunate in having a very equable dry climate and free from fog. It is particularly suitable for persons who are suffering from respiratory diseases.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

There is no licensed slaughter house in Prestatyn.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are 30 properties in the district not connected to the main drainage system.

The surface water system is in the main separate from the foul water system but in certain areas is unsatisfactory, and considerable flooding occurs during heavy thunderstorms.

The sewer outfall to the sea is unsatisfactory and the Council are awaiting the Consulting Engineers report on the matter.

There is a strong case, in my opinion, for sewerage boards comprising of many local authorities for dealing with this problem of sea pollution.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year samples were taken regularly from the swimming Pools and were satisfactory, and further details appear later in Mr. Edwards' Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The local Public Health Laboratory is situate at Conway, and Dr. Kingsley Smith, the Director, and his Deputy, Dr. Griffiths, carry out the bacteriological examinations of specimens sent from the Urban District. They have been most co-operative and my gratitude is extended to them for their advice and help throughout the year.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year 43 samples of water were taken and found to be satisfactory bacteriologically.

I list below a Report on a sample of water submitted during the year for chemical analysis: —

"Analysis :

Appearance	Slightly Cloudy
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.3
	parts per million
Total solids	353
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5
Chlorides, as Cl	30
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.4
Total hardness	295
Temporary hardness	202
Permanent hardness	93
Alkalinity	202
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	1.5
Anionic synthetic detergents	Nil
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.025
Cyanides and Thiocynates	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil

Opinion :

The chemical condition of this water is satisfactory."

There are no bore holes in the district, but three dwellings are still served by wells due to difficulties in arranging a satisfactory main water supply.

Number of dwellings served by public main direct to house	5,063
Number of dwellings served by means of stand pipes	2
Number of dwellings served by means of wells	3
New mains were laid in	273

MILK SUPPLY

The sampling of milk for submission for bacteriological and chemical analysis is now the responsibility of the County Council, and details are given in Mr. Lewis' Report (County Public Health Inspector) of the number of samples of milk taken and the results thereof.

I am pleased to say it was not necessary to issue any pasteurisation orders on milk unfit for consumption but, nevertheless, it is necessary to take regular samples to ensure a clean milk supply. There is a need to streamline the present administration of Food & Drugs Acts. This is a national problem and not a local one and I must take this opportunity of thanking the County Health Department officials for their co-operation in this matter.

CARAVAN SITES

The Caravan Sites in the Urban District are gradually being brought up to standard under the Caravan Act, 1960. Further details of these appear in Mr. Edwards' Report.

It is regrettable that there is little control over tents in the district, and it is a regular and common feature during the Summer week-ends for large numbers of tents to be situated in certain fields with insufficient sanitation. Furthermore, it has a serious effect on the amenities of the area and one difficulty is that the sites used at present have been used for camping for many years, but increasing numbers of campers are using them each year.

I consider that some action will be necessary to control this nuisance but, on the other hand, since Prestatyn is a holiday resort, other arrangements must be made to meet the need for camping. Furthermore, I suggest that a Municipal Site be acquired for both camping and caravanning, where adequate sanitary facilities and density of tents and caravans can be laid down. Some improvements have been effected in two of the local tenting sites.

SMOKE CONTROL

There has been increasing emphasis on control of atmospheric pollution during the past few years. It is becoming very evident that there is a strong link between lung cancer and chronic bronchitis and pollution of the atmosphere, whether it be from cigarette smoke, petrol fumes or combustion of coal. Prestatyn, fortunately, enjoys a fairly clean atmosphere, due to its location, but I urge householders to burn smokeless fuels or convert to gas, oil or electricity to reduce atmospheric pollution.

HOUSING

During 1965 the extent of new property constructed is shown below:—

The number of private new houses built in the town was	17
The number of private new bungalows built in the town was	240
The number of Council property built in the town was	16

There has been a great expansion in the private speculative building in the town during the past few years and it appears that the present trend is likely to be continued. Reference has been made to the implications of this previously in the special survey.

HOUSING WAITING LISTS AT END OF 1965

The number of people waiting for Council houses is	132
The number of people waiting for old peoples bungalows is	138
The number of Council houses is	455
The number of old people's bungalows is	14
The number of old people's flats is	32

Since 1948 the Council have built 295 houses, bungalows and flats and the table shown below indicates the yearly totals of property constructed in the town: —

Year	New Council property	New Private property	Total
1965	16	257	273
1964	—	239	239
1963	12	176	188
1962	8	251	259
1961	4	272	276
1960	—	247	247
1959	4	182	186
1958	22	68	90
1957	10	79	89
1956	14	90	104
1955	—	76	76
1954	11	77	88
1953	19	62	81
1952	42	10	52
1951	2	7	9
1950	40	3	43
1949	31	10	41
1948	60	—	60

The tremendous spurt in private house building in the past five years is seen in the above table.

**TABLE SHOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOWN
OVER THE PAST YEARS**

Year	Population	No. of properties	No. of persons per property	Rateable value	Product of 1d. rate
1911	2,036 ...	532 ...	3.8 ...	— ...	—
1921	*4,085 ...	770 ...	5.3 ...	£22,625 ...	£81
1931	4,511 ...	1,579 ...	2.9 ...	£43,310 ...	£163
1941	†10,030 ...	2,750 ...	3.6 ...	£74,731 ...	£299
1951	8,809 ...	3,536 ...	2.5 ...	£82,188 ...	£325
1961	10,670 ...	5,034 ...	2.0 ...	£166,284 ...	£668
1962	11,170 ...	5,285 ...	2.0 ...	£176,590 ...	£706
1963	11,490 ...	5,395 ...	2.0 ...	†£480,219 ...	£1,896
1964	12,070 ...	5,633 ...	2.0 ...	£500,583 ...	£1,970
1965	12,450 ...	5,906 ..	2.0 ...	£529,280 ...	£2,065

*Uncorrected figure. Corrected—2,946, which gives a figure of 3.8 persons per house.

‡ This abnormally high figure was due to war-time reception of evacuees.

†The increase in rateable value is due to re-assessment.

The above table shows the improvement in overcrowding that has taken place in the town especially in the past thirty years.

SLUM CLEARANCE

There is very little property in Prestatyn which falls within the category requiring demolition, that is, properties which cannot be reconstructed at reasonable cost.

SUPERANNUATION

Eighteen medical examinations were carried out in 1965 on Urban District staff, either for fitness to commence employment or because of absence from work through ill health.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no such establishments in the district.

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

The prescribed particulars of inspections carried out during the year are provided in the annexe to this report.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1965



GENERAL SUMMARY OF VISITS, ETC.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply	16
Drainage	144
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	—
Fried Fish Shops	—
Camps, etc.	96
Factories and Workshops	—
Bakehouses	—
Public Conveniences	56
Schools	—
Watercourses	6
Special Visits re. Housing	347
Visits re. Housing Defects	—
Visits under National Assistance Act, Sec. 47 and 60	6
Premises re. Insect Pests	33
Miscellaneous Visits and Re-inspections	132
Complaints received and investigated	32
Number of nuisances abated	18
Number of Preliminary notices served for nuisances	7
Formal notices for nuisances	—
Rats and Mice	29

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of cases occurring	14
Enquiries	73
Number removed to Hospital	—
Disinfection	42

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Butchers' Shops	1
Fishmongers	0
Grocers	33
Ice Cream Premises	3
Food Preparing Premises	58
Dairies and Milk Shops	2
Miscellaneous	32

SANITARY DEFECTS, ETC.

Defective Roofs	6
Defective Floors	11
Defective Eaves and Downspouts	2
Defective Doors	12

Defective Windows	17
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster	23
Defective Grates	7
Defective Chimneys	3
Dampness	16
Defective Sinks and Washbasins	3
Defective Gullies and Wastepipes	3
Defective Pavings	5
Defective Drains	14
Number of Stopped Drains	406
Defective Inspection Chambers	1
Defective Septic Tanks	1
Defective Water Closcts	1
Defective W.C. Cisterns and Fittings	5
Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	1
Insufficient Water Supply	3
Accumulation of Refuse	2
Dilapidated Dustbin	5
Dirty Houses, Outhouses and Yards	3
Insect Pests	36
Rats and Mice	162
Animals kept in Insanitary Conditions	4
Choked and Insanitary Ditches	4
Miscellaneous	3

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS

Farms and Dairies	—
Camps and Caravans	—
Cafes	—
Offices	—
Shops	—
Food Shops	—
Schools	—
Bakeries	—
Hotels	—
Garages, etc.	—
Fried Fish Shops	—
Miscellaneous	—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Number of visits re. Collection and Salvage	256
Number of visits re. Disposal	85

This service is carried out with two eighteen cubic yard rear-loading vehicles and one ten cubic yard side-loading vehicle, which is now over ten years old and is due for replacement.

Again this year the time lost due to absenteeism and sickness has been high — a total of 476 days as compared with 269½ for last year. The supplying of replacement labour is practically impossible since suitable labour is not available at the local labour exchange, and since medical certificates received in respect of sickness give no indication as to the particular illness of the individual, it is practically impossible to ascertain for what length of time any man may be away from work sick.

The number of properties in the area has increased by 273 and, the collection of refuse now entails the emptying of 6000 bins each week. However, in spite of the continued growth of the town, the refuse collection service has functioned satisfactorily. This, without doubt, is due to the Bonus Incentive Scheme introduced last year.

During the holiday season, refuse from the Central Beach, Ffrith Beach and Caravan Sites is collected with a 10 cubic yard side-loading vehicle and additional men are employed for this purpose. This vehicle is now 10 years old and is in a condition when it should be replaced with a larger capacity vehicle.

When considering the purchase of new vehicles in the future, consideration will have to be given to the fact that refuse is becoming greater in volume and less in density. This is largely due to the increased use of non-solid fuels for heating and cooking purposes, and to the increase in the use of cartons for the packing of goods generally. In view of this, it will be necessary to introduce compression type refuse vehicles otherwise the number of daily runs to the refuse tip will increase, resulting in increased costs. Furthermore, the introduction of this type of vehicle will eventually call for a reappraisal of the salvage collection system since it will probably not be economical to use trailers on any new vehicles which may be purchased.

The work of controlling the disposal of refuse is carried out by one man working on the tip face, assisted by a Wetherill Loader Shovel which is available on a part-time basis. This system is not altogether satisfactory in view of the fact that up to 15 loads of refuse of varying kinds are handled daily. At present, and with the continued expansion of the town, this figure will undoubtedly increase. In these circumstances, consideration should be given to the provision of a machine which would operate full-time on the tip.

Again this year, a series of fires have broken out on the refuse tip, all due to unauthorised persons entering on the land after working hours and being careless in the use of cigarettes and matches. Garden refuse continues to be a major problem and great care has to be exercised to prevent fires arising from spontaneous combustion. The refuse collectors are instructed not to remove this type of refuse, but its total elimination is proving to be almost impossible. Garden refuse can only be satisfactorily handled if it is brought into the tip separate from general household refuse.

An area of approximately 11 acres has now been tipped upon and the ground level here is now some six feet above natural ground level. Consideration could now be given to putting approximately four acres to some use—such as playing fields, which are greatly lacking in this area.

Number of loads of refuse collected	2,164
Number of loads of refuse disposed of	2,362
Area of district, in acres	3,655
Population	12,450
Number of premises	5,775

SALVAGE

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	99	17	1	12	857	5	7
Fibreboard	46	4	1	1	473	12	8
White Paper	3	0	1	10	27	3	0
Rags	2	11	0	22	26	10	4
Cast Iron	3	15	0	0	19	18	0
Copper				11		13	9
Lead			3	5	2	15	7
Aluminum		2	1	22	10	14	9
Brass			1	0	1	3	9
	155	11	2	27	£1,419	17	5

Salvage 1964	199	0	3	2	£1,616	10	10
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The income from salvage sold during the year showed a decrease of £196.13.5. on the figure for 1964.

The cost of labour and materials is increasing year by year and in order to continue to show a profit, it is necessary to collect a greater amount of salvageable material. To this end it is hoped that the householders and traders of the town will continue to assist in this matter by putting out as much clean waste paper as possible.

WATER SAMPLING

	Bacterio- logical		Satis- factory		Unsatis- factory
Main Town Supply	19	...	18	...	1
Culvert—Nant Mill Pool ...	10	...	9	...	1
Private Supply, Wells, etc. ...	—	...	—	...	—
Streams	—	...	—	...	—
Swimming Pool (Lido)	7	...	5	...	2
Swimming Pool (Camp)	7	...	7	...	—
Total Samples Taken ...	43	...	39	...	4

Bacteriological samples are taken from properties at random throught the Council's area, and with the exception of 2" unsatisfactory samples from the Council's mains and one from the culvert at Nant Mill Pool, all others proved to be satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory sample from the culvert at Nant Mill Pool is one of raw water and was taken, with others, in connection with the possible use of this source of supply as an additional supply to the town in the event of a shortage from Dyserth.

The results of a chemical analysis of the town's water supply are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

SWIMMING POOLS

Both Swimming Pools continue to be operated in a satisfactory manner and, as will be seen in the previous table, water samples continue to show highly satisfactory results.

The water in both Swimming Pools is filtered and Chlorinated and there is a complete change of water every six hours. Mains water is used in the Holiday Camp Pool, and although sea water is used at the Royal Lido Swimming Pool the results of samples taken are equal to those obtained from water in our own mains.

FOOD AND DRUG PREMISES

FOOD AND DRUG PREMISES			
(1) Number of Food Premises in the area, by type of premises :—			
Grocers	36	Candy Floss Kiosks	3
Greengrocers	13	Ice Cream Kiosks	6
Confectioners	13	Cinemas and Theatres	1
Bakeries	12	Schools	7
Restaurants and Snack Bars	23	Homes	7
Butchers	10	Hospitals	1
Fishmongers and Game Dealers	4	Boarding Houses	5
Fried Fish Shops	5	Registered Clubs	9
Sweet Shops	17	Licensed Houses	9

Total : 181

This figure represents approximately one-third of the total business premises in the area.

(2) Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Grocers	19	Kiosks	6
Restaurants and Snack Bars ...	15	Fried Fish Shops	5
Sweet Shops	7	Butchers	1
Greengrocers	2		

(3) Two hundred and twenty-five visits of inspection have been paid to Food Premises in general, and 92 to those premises which are registered under the above-mentioned Act and Regulations.

(4) **Fried Fish Shops :—**

Number of Fried Fish Shops in District 5

These shops are well conducted.

During the year 4 successful prosecutions were instituted in respect of offences under Section 2 of the 1955 Act.

I am pleased to report that in general the food traders are continuing their efforts to provide a clean service and in many instances improvements have been carried out to shop premises to further this end.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

All the town's meat supply is slaughtered and inspected at the Rhyl Municipal Abattoir and from time to time is further inspected when exposed for sale in the local shops.

Other foods, canned goods, etc., are inspected when necessary, and the following is a list of unsound food condemned in the shops :

Solids		Liquids	
	lbs.	ozs.	
Fruit	152	9	20 Tinned Milk.
Vegetables	363	15	
Meat	389	3	
Fish	300	10½	
Miscellaneous	54	0	
	1260	5½	

Miscellaneous frozen foods 230 packets

It will be noted that during the year almost twice as much food stuff was found to be unfit than in 1964. This, however, is due to the fact that certain traders have been unfortunate enough to have a breakdown in their refrigeration display cabinets resulting in a complete loss of contents.

If this factor is ignored, it would seem that, in general, the keeping quality of food has improved probably due to improved methods of storage and the number of damaged tins has greatly diminished.

The traders continue to co-operate in drawing my attention to any nuisance or doubtful food stuffs which may come into their possession.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 TABLE A

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	40	5
Retail Shops	8	127	12
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	9	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	—	10	10
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—

TABLE B

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises ... 110

TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises ...	110
Offices	193
Retail Shops	428
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	113
Catering Establishments open to the public	83
Canteens	8
Fuel Storage Depots	5
Total ..	850
Total Males ..	328
Total Females ...	522

Nine premises, were registered under the Act during the year and the necessary information in each case was passed on to the local Fire Authority for their attention.

Again this year it was not possible to carry out any large scale inspection of these premises due to the pressure of work in other directions.

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in the Prestatyn Urban District Council area during the year ended 1965 by the County Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. Lewis.

Description of Article	No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or below standard
Milk	13	13	—
Dairy Products	4	4	—
Sausages	7	7	—
Ice Cream and Lollies	4	4	—
Confectionary	6	6	—
Cooking Fats & Fish Frying Oils	2	2	—
Fish and Meat Products	4	4	—
Patent Medicines	4	4	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	13	12	1
Total	57	56	1

The contents of a sample of corned beef were found to have a slight discolouration due to the action of the meat fat on the tin.

A sample of potatoes examined for pesticides and growth inhibitors because of a complaint of odour on cooking was found to be satisfactory.

All articles inspected under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Merchandise Meals Orders and Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act were satisfactory.

LICENSED PREMISES

All premises requiring a Magistrates' Licence were inspected during the year, and a report was presented to the Licensing Justices at the Brewster Sessions.

The premises inspected are as follows :—

Licensed Houses	10
Clubs	8
Public Halls, Cafe, etc.	5
Cinemas	1

I am pleased to report that during the year, the occupiers of these premises have continued to maintain high standards of hygiene and all buildings now comply with all requirements of Food Hygiene Regulations and of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupier's Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ...	33	16	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	34	16	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT : OUTWORK (Section 110 and 111)

Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (2).
 Wearing Apparel-making, etc. 1

RODENT INFESTATION**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

The duties of Rodent Officer are carried out by the General Assistant for the Public Health Department and during the year he has carried out a total of 246 visits to various premises.

Certain of the Council's property such as the Sewerage Disposal Works, Refuse Tip and the Beach areas are inspected and treated as a matter of routine.

The majority of infestations of private households are still caused by the indiscriminate feeding of birds and unconsumed bread-crumbs, etc., being left on the ground. Generally speaking, the residents are very co-operative in discontinuing this practice when the risks of infestation are pointed out to them.

No difficulties are experienced in obtaining the co-operation both of the occupiers of private and business premises in reporting the presence of rats or mice.

The disinfection service is free to householders and a small charge is made for work done on business premises.

Treatment carried out		
	Rats	Mice
Private Dwellings	65	10
Council Dwellings	19	2
Business Premises	24	8
Council Property other than Dwellings	23	4
Farms	2	—
Total Visits	133	24

CAMPS**CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960**

The licensed sites within the area are as follows :—

Caravan Sites and Number of Caravans

Bastion Road Camp	600
Tan-y-Don Camp	66
Prestatyn Holiday Camp	135
Plas Deva Caravan Camp	45
White House Camp	20
Plas Morfa Caravan Site	9
Midnant Farm Caravan Site	20
Pen-y-Ffrith Caravan Camp	50
Morfa Du Caravan Camp	25
Ironmongers' Shop, Ffordd Talargoch, Meliden	1
Y Nyth, Plas Newydd Drive, Prestatyn	1
"Brookdale," Cefn-y-Gwrych, Meliden	1

The Caravan sites generally are well conducted, the owners are co-operating fully with this department in all matters.

The district continues to be very popular with campers who are inclined to pitch their tents in all parts of the district without reference to the owners of the land in question and considerable difficulty is experienced in controlling such indiscriminate camping and in maintaining any real standard of hygiene.

There are two camping grounds, used by the owners of tents, which enjoy "long-user rights" under the Town and Country Planning Acts, and these are filled to capacity during late July and early August. In practice, the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, do not provide adequate control of this temporary camping and it is possible that the limit of 42 consecutive days permitted under the Act may be rather too wide. It would appear that if properly laid-out sites were provided, preferably by the local authority and properly maintained, these would go a long way towards improving an ever-increasing demand on the part of the campers for reasonable holiday accommodation. The practice of taking holidays in caravans and tents is one which has grown tremendously since the end of the war and which has created a problem which must be met either by private individuals or local authorities.

Organised camps occupied by units of Boy Scouts and Boys' Brigade are set up each year, but since these are properly organised and well conducted they cause very little trouble to the department.

TALACRE WARREN

Work has continued on the re-development of this area as a caravan site and it is anticipated that with the exception of final surfacing of the roads, the whole site should be fit for occupation during 1966.

The remaining problem, that of the shops in this area, is still to be dealt with, especially in as much as they are now sub-standard when one takes into consideration the recent provision of an adequate water supply, drainage and sewage disposal system. It is anticipated that these premises will be the subject of discussion with the owners of the site in the near future.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are eight public conveniences in the town situated at the rear of the Palladium Cinema, Coronation Gardens, Central Beach, near the Grand Hotel, Pendre Gardens, Hillside Gardens, Meliden and The Ffrith Beach.

The misuse and wanton damage in these premises still continues as was reported last year, and although every effort has been made to apprehend offenders, these have been unsuccessful. With the exception of those toilets at the Ffrith Beach, it is an impractical proposition to provide permanent attendants owing to the fact that each unit is too small and, as a result, it is not possible always to maintain these facilities in a way that is to be desired.

Owing to the rapid growth of the town, the necessary facilities are proving to be inadequate and it is felt that, in addition to replacing the existing buildings in the Hillside Gardens, Central Beach and near the Grand Hotel, provision should be made for further conveniences to be erected in the Victoria Road West and Ffordd Penrhwyfla districts.

MORTUARY

This building has not been used for six years since all casualties are removed to hospital in Rhyl and the mortuary postmortem examination facilities at the hospital are used. In view of the meagre facilities, the poor condition of the building and its unsatisfactory location, it is unlikely that any further use will be made of it as a mortuary, and consideration could be given to discontinuing its use for this purpose.

HOUSING

The number of applications received for Council houses both for general need and for the Aged Persons continues to increase at a faster rate than vacancies are occurring. The great problem is that of the aged persons since time has shown that properties suitable for occupation by them become available only at the rate of one a year.

During the year, the council built 16 flats for aged persons.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 38 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 51 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 37 |

(2) Remedy of defects during the year with Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	34
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | — |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners —
 - (b) By Local Authority in defect of owners —

(C) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (1a) Number of houses for which Undertakings were accepted —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

(D) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellings having been rendered fit —

(4) Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) :—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 16
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 25
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 95
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 10
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 15
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 63
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

The legal standard recognises living rooms as sleeping rooms, so that an ordinary 5-roomed house (2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms) could house 10 adults without being legally overcrowded.

In considering the cases of applicants for houses, the Council recognises a "bedroom standard" for overcrowding and this has helped to relieve many cases of near legal overcrowding.

RENT ACT, 1957

Certificates of disrepair issued	—
Certificates of disrepair cancelled	—

Apart from a small demand for Certificates of Disrepair during the first year of the operation of this Act there has been no further advantage taken of its provisions. It would appear that as a means of improving rented property in Prestatyn, this Act has failed to have the desired effect although this may, to some extent, be due to the fact that in very many cases every opportunity is taken to sell rented property and an increasing number of houses are becoming owner occupied.

PRIVATE AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN PRESTATYN URBAN DISTRICT AREA

- Prestatyn Urban District Act, 1909.
- Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Whole Act).
- Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893.
- Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907
(Except Parts V, VII and IX).
- Public Health (Buildings in Streets) Act, 1888.
- Public Health Act, 1925.

BYE-LAWS

- Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions in Handling Food, 1950.
- Building Bye-laws, 1957.
(Plus addition for Grates to burn smokeless fuel).
- Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures used for human habitation, 1931.
- Nuisances, 1899.
- Slaughterhouses, 1899.
- Water Bye-laws (made under Section 17, Water Act, 1945).
- Cemetery Bye-laws, 1928.
- Hackney Carriages, 1952.

CLIMATOLOGY OF PRESTATYN

Month	Temperature		Sunshine		Rainfall	
	Lowest	Highest	Longest	Total	Maximum	Total
January ...	28° (4th, 21st, 22nd)	54° (10th)	4.6 hrs (11th)	39.4 hrs	0.80" (9th)	3.14"
February ...	23° (3rd)	51° (12th)	5.0 hrs (28th)	27.9 hrs	0.06" (18th)	0.28"
March ...	18° (2nd)	75° (29th)	10.9 hrs (29th)	124.1 hrs	0.49" (20th)	1.87"
April ...	30° (22nd)	65° (1st)	12.3 hrs (22nd)	144.9 hrs	0.72" (9th)	1.81"
May ...	37° (20th)	78° (13th)	11.8 hrs (20th)	145.3 hrs	1.13" (8th)	2.53"
June ...	43° (2nd)	68° (20th)	13.6 hrs (13th)	193.6 hrs	1.13" (21st)	3.06"
July ...	42° (17th)	71° (18th)	11.4 hrs (17th)	127.8 hrs	0.58" (19th)	2.20"
August ...	44° (9th)	78° (12th)	11.9 hrs (5th)	173.3 hrs	0.46" (24th)	1.94"
September...	43° (2nd and 14th)	67° (21st & 24th)	10.1 hrs (1st)	86.7 hrs	0.75" (8th)	4.00"
October ...	33° (15th & 16th)	74° (5th)	8.7 hrs (17th)	109.7 hrs	1.23" (1st)	2.43"
November...	26° (15th)	57° (8th)	7.8 hrs (4th)	58.2 hrs	0.48" (28th)	2.82"
December...	27° (29th)	56° (9th)	5.5 hrs (26th)	41.0 hrs	0.05" (18th)	4.52"
Total rainfall for the year 30.6"						
Total sunshine for the year 1271.9 hrs						

With the continued increase in the growth of the town, it is becoming more difficult to carry out all the duties relating to the Department, especially those entailing routine inspections of factories and shops. Whilst every effort is made to apportion the time spent on indoor and outdoor duties, I find that the increasing amount of time which has to be given to office administration is tending to reduce the time spent on such routine matters as those mentioned above.

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation of the help and kindness shown me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Dr. D. P. W. Roberts, the Clerk of the Council, and the indoor and outdoor staff.

J. M. EDWARDS,

Public Health Inspector





